

It is no surprise that polling data from CBS News, CNBC, and others shows that the vast majority of Americans—in this case, 87 percent in these two polls—support investing in and improving our infrastructure.

For these reasons, the House of Representatives needs to pass this bill without delay and help us achieve this win for the American people. It has been almost 3 months since the legislation passed here in the U.S. Senate—almost 3 months. It passed by a vote of 69 to 30.

It is now being held up by progressives in the House of Representatives who want the second bill—the massive tax-and-spend bill, the reconciliation bill—more than they want the infrastructure bill. So they are holding the infrastructure bill hostage, thinking that somehow that will enable them to get more moderate Democrats to support the massive tax-and-spend bill. I don't think that is going to happen, but, meanwhile, they are hurting the American people by holding it hostage.

The second bill that Democrats are contemplating, which is the reconciliation bill, a massive tax-and-spend bill, would inject at least \$2 trillion more in largely stimulus funding into an already overheated economy. In order to try to pay for it, it also includes significant tax increases that will hurt economic growth and jobs.

Democrats claim they are taxing the rich and corporations to pay for it, but we shouldn't be fooled. The middle class will bear the brunt of what they are proposing, as they always do.

As an example, the proposed Medicare surcharge on active investment income will hit the millions of small businesses that structured themselves as pass-through entities, as the vast majority do, with an across-the-board 3.8-percent increase on all income.

Proposed corporate tax increases will hit American workers, based on the analyses of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office and the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation. It is very simple. When you tax a company, the workers end up taking the brunt of it. About 70 percent of the benefit of the tax cuts and about 70 percent of the detriment of the tax increases goes to worker wages and benefits. Costs will be passed down to working families in the form of even lower wages and even more inflation, which means higher prices for everything.

That is bad for the families that I represent. Any objective analysis will show that this massive tax-and-spend bill will actually cost a lot more than advertised.

Why do I say that? Because it uses some budget gimmicks to be able to make the cost of the bill look like less.

Based on a new study that just came out by the Penn Wharton folks, if benefit programs put in place by the bill—let's say the child tax credit—increase and are not sunset in the 10-year window, then the cost goes from \$1.75 trillion to \$3.98 trillion. In other words, if

you just assume that we are not going to sunset things like the child tax credit, the cost goes to almost \$4 trillion.

Democrats are proposing to end these new benefits partway through their 10-year window to help keep the costs down, knowing full well that, historically, benefit programs like this are not ended but always extended.

So, taking away the budget gimmicks, the cost of this massive tax-and-spend bill gets it closer to \$4 trillion. By the way, that is more than twice as much as Congress has ever spent on a spending bill in the history of our country.

I strongly urge President Biden and Democrats in Congress to slow down this process at a time of high inflation, record debt, and consider the devastating economic consequences of what they are proposing. This increased spending, combined with job-killing tax increases, could lead to the kind of stagflation, as they called it, that we had back in the 1970s: low growth, high interest rates, high inflation. We never want to go back there. Yet, if we don't change course, we could be heading in that direction.

Here is a better solution. Just pass the right bill: the bipartisan, pro-growth infrastructure bill that has been stuck in the House of Representatives for almost 3 months. President Biden has said he will sign it into law. It would be a victory for the American people.

Stop holding it hostage. Instead of holding it hostage, do something good for our infrastructure, which everyone relies on—good for our economy, good for American families, and good for the country right now.

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, it would be a needed bipartisan victory for which all of us—Republican and Democrat alike—could give thanks.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). The Senator from Michigan.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time on the Harris, Coleman, Prieto, and Nayak nominations be considered expired; further, that at 11 a.m., tomorrow, Wednesday, November 3, the Senate vote on confirmation of the Harris and Coleman nominations, and, at 5:15 p.m., on confirmation of the Prieto and Nayak nominations, all in the order listed; and, finally, if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday's session, that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 501, Maj. Gen. John D. Caine, to be Lieutenant General, and that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the clerk will report.

The clerk read the nomination of the following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601: to be Lieutenant General, Maj. Gen. John D. Caine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Caine nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all without intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

##### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NOMINATION OF ISOBEL COLEMAN

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I rise today to express my enthusiastic support for the nomination of Ambassador Isobel Coleman to be Deputy Administrator for Policy and Programming at the United States Agency for International Development.

As the world faces mounting challenges—from climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, forced migration spurred by conflict, lack of economic opportunity, and growing food insecurity, to the emergence of antidemocratic and authoritarian leaders—USAID's work is critically important to the U.S. national security and global stability.

I am pleased to be supporting Ambassador Coleman's nomination, and I am confident that her extensive development experience and her years of distinguished public service, including at the United Nations, serving with Administrator Power, provide her with the type of background and knowledge required to address the challenges ahead, if confirmed. She is a well-known and trusted foreign affairs professional, and I am confident she will execute her duties with distinction.